

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-19, 21 and 23-27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 7, 10, 12-13, 17, 21 and 23-24 are amended and claims 9, 11, 20 and 22 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Sorrell and Shin at the interview held March 18, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action objects to claim 17 because of informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that the above-described amendment to claim 17 obviates the grounds for the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 17 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Kumpf (U.S. Patent No. 6,581,098). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In particular, Applicants assert that Kumpf does not disclose or suggest an image input and output control apparatus including at least a transmitting and receiving section that transmits and receives at least two of print data, scan data, and fax data to and from an information terminal apparatus, as recited in independent claim 1.

Specifically, Kumpf discloses a server adapted to enable a plurality of clients in a network to access a plurality of functions supported by a multifunction peripheral connected to the network (Abstract, lines 1-4). Kumpf further teaches that multifunction peripherals "provide a number of different functions such as scanning, printing, copying, and sending and receiving faxes, for example" (col. 1, lines 11-14). The Office Action appears to associate the

multifunction peripherals of Kumpf to the second transmitting and receiving section of Applicants' invention that receives at least two of print data, scan data, and fax data.

However, Kumpf does not specifically teach or suggest the transmission and reception of print data, scan data, and fax data. In fact, because Kumpf simply "notes" scanning, printing and faxing as examples of multifunction peripherals, Applicants assert that these features are not inherent to the teachings of Kumpf. Accordingly, Applicants assert that Kumpf does not disclose each and every feature of independent claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims over Kumpf be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 7-10, 12-13, 17-21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Levine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,020,973). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As agreed during the personal interview, and as acknowledged in the Office Action (page 12, lines 7-9; page 13, lines 19-21), Levine fails to teach a receiver receiving the data wirelessly to and from an information terminal apparatus, as recited in independent claims 7 and 17. As such, Applicants assert that independent claims 7 and 17, and their dependent claims, define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kumpf in view of Beach et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,404,772). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action acknowledges that Kumpf fails to teach a transmitting and receiving section that transmits and receives data wirelessly to and from a mobile information terminal apparatus (Office Action, page 9, lines 7-10). Moreover, Beach teaches a wireless local area network that carries mixed traffic of voice and data communications, but does not specifically teach transmitting and receiving print, scan and fax data. (Abstract, lines 1 and 2). As such,

Beach fails to cure the deficiencies of Kumpf in disclosing a second transmitting and receiving section that transmits and receives at least two of print data, scan data, and fax data. Thus, Applicants assert that claim 2 defines patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kumpf in view of Leiman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,796). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In particular, the Office Action acknowledges that Kumpf fails to teach "the image input and output control apparatus comprises a user interface providing section that provides a user interface relating to the image input and output apparatus" (Office Action, page 10, lines 11-14), as recited in dependent claim 3. While Leiman teaches methods of printing using a print server (Abstract), it fails to cure the deficiencies of Kumpf in disclosing a transmitting and receiving section that transmits and receives at least two of print data, scan data, and fax data. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that claims 3 and 5 define patentable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 11, 16, 22 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Levine in view of Beach. Although the Office Action indicates that claims 16 and 27 are rejected over Levine in view of Beach, the Office Action's argument regarding claims 16 and 27 is made using a combination of Levine and Leiman. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants assert that the cancellation of claims 11 and 22 renders moot the rejection. Moreover, Applicants assert that claims 16 and 27, by virtue of being dependent on allowable claims 7 and 17, respectively, define patentable subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 11, 16, 22 and 27 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 14 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Levine in view of Kurachi (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,436). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Although Kurachi teaches a controller deleting the stored first-format data according to user instruction after the printing has completed (col. 8, line 67 - col. 9, line 7), Applicants assert that Kurachi fails to cure the deficiencies of Levine. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 14 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

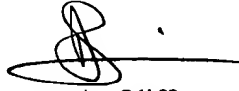
The Office Action rejects claims 15 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Levine in view of Mori (U.S. Patent No. 6,089,765). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Although Mori teaches a controller deleting the stored second-format data after a lapse of a prescribed time after the printing has completed (col. 7, lines 52-61), Mori fails to cure the deficiencies of Levine. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 15 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8, 10, 12-19, 21 and 23-27 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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